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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CONSULAR AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON

APR 1 1981

OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

Dear Mr. *Fred* Chapin:

I am certain you are well aware of the disappearance of U.S. citizen John J. Sullivan, the free lance reporter who has been missing since his arrival in San Salvador on December 28, 1980, and of the efforts that have been made to attempt to determine what has happened to him.

I would like you to know that we are well aware of the difficult conditions under which your staff must function, and that we in the CA Bureau greatly appreciate the work done on this case to date by Consul Pat Lasbury, her consular staff, and the other Embassy officers who have contributed to the efforts to determine what has happened to Mr. Sullivan. I would like to particularly commend Pat for her initiative and her prompt responses to the many requests for information and assistance from officers in the Department and from the Sullivan family.

I met personally with members of the Sullivan family on February 18, 1981, and assured them that the Department and the Embassy would do all it appropriately could to assist the Salvadoran government in its efforts to determine the welfare and whereabouts of Mr. Sullivan. One positive result of this meeting was an agreement with the Sullivan family to direct their communications through one member of the family with a designated officer in our Citizens Emergency Center, and, we in turn, agreed that we would telephone that family member on a daily basis, including weekends, to report on developments in the search for Mr. Sullivan. This system enables us to keep the Sullivan family informed of developments and to pass on their concerns to the Embassy

Frederick Chapin, Esq.,
Charge D'Affaires,
American Embassy,
San Salvador.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

MAR 13 1984

REVIEWED BY *[Signature]* DATE _____

RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE _____

TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐

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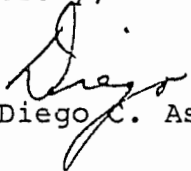
without subjecting them to the expense of long distance international telephone calls. We are also able to avoid the conflicts and duplications of effort that result when requests go simultaneously from various members of the family to the Department and the Embassy.

We continue to receive a great deal of correspondence from members of Congress and others expressing concern for Mr. Sullivan, and as the enclosed letter from his father indicates, the family continues to feel that little is being done to find his son. I am also enclosing my response to Mr. Sullivan, and copies of memoranda I have recently sent to Ambassador Enders and Bill Dyess.

I wish to be as responsive and helpful as I can possibly be to the Sullivan family and I know that you share my concern that the Salvadoran efforts to determine what has happened to Mr. Sullivan not be allowed to dwindle. We should take every available opportunity to remind the Salvadoran Government of our continuing interest in his welfare and whereabouts. I would like to request your cooperation in this regard to assure that members of your staff are fully aware of our concern for Mr. Sullivan's welfare and whereabouts and that they take every appropriate and available opportunity to keep our search for him in the minds of Salvadoran government officials and others with whom they have contact.

- My very best wishes,

Sincerely,


Diego C. Asencio

Enclosures:
As stated.

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